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## 101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

The 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign began in the early 80's when fatal mishap numbers were growing for both on- and off-duty activities. Initially the fatal mishap numbers were reduced from a high of 46 to a low of 15 fatalities; however, the fatal mishap numbers have begun to rise again. In FY02, ACC lost eight Airmen during that timeframe, and last year that number increased to 12. So far this year ACC has experienced 11 fatalities — we're on a pace to set records, the kind we don't want. Although the 101 critical days comprise just over a quarter of the year, historically, ACC experiences almost 40 percent of the yearly fatalities during this time period.

The causes seem obvious — more mishaps due to an increase in leisure time activities. ACC Airmen spend more time on the road traveling, recreating with their family and friends, and taking well deserved vacations. We must impress upon all of our personnel to use the principles of good Operational Risk Management and Personal Risk Management. Take the time to assess the hazard(s), consider the options, and then take action (ACT process). Proper risk management planning will allow us all to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our friends out of harm's way.

When traveling and recreating, don't forget the proper use and wear of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) — it is one of the greatest lifesaving actions we can take. That means wearing seat belt and shoulder harnesses properly, and ensuring our children are safely seated in child seats that are installed correctly in any vehicle. Proper PPE for motorcycle enthusiasts includes an approved helmet, impact resistant goggles or full face-shield, long-sleeved shirt, full length pants, sturdy footwear and gloves and a brightly colored or contrasting reflective vest or jacket. While boating, each person in the boat must have a flotation device available to them, preferably one being worn at all times while on the water.

Lastly, don't drink and drive. We simply can't afford the cost in human suffering and mission impact. Enjoy the upcoming summer and be careful in your endeavors — your nation and your Air Force need you to be duty ready at all times. Help make safety proactive — make it your Combat Edge.

**Colonel Creid K. Johnson,**  
**ACC Director of Safety**



Photo by TSgt Ben Bloker